

Message Text

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INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

UNCLAS DOHA 0812

USIA FOR CURTISS/INA

DEPT FOR CU/NEA AND NEA/ARP

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TAGS: ETEL, QA, US

SUBJECT: VISIT OF DR. JACK SHAHEEN TO QATAR -- JUNE 8-18

REF: (A) DOHA 0500; (B) STATE 123200; (C) MANAMA 1313

(ALL NOTAL)

SUMMARY: DURING TEN DAY VISIT DR. JACK SHAHEEN OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY (EDWARDSVILLE) DISCUSSED PLANS FOR GOQ MIN OF INFORMATION TELEVISION TRAINING CENTER WITH MINISTRY OFFICIALS AND MANAGEMENT AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL AT QATAR TV. DISCUSSIONS COVERED LONG RANGE PLANS FOR CENTER AND PLANS FOR TRAINING PERSONNEL PRIOR TO OPENING OF CENTER.
END SUMMARY.

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1. DR. SHAHEEN'S DISCUSSIONS ON LONG RANGE PLANS INCLUDED EXCHANGE OF IDEAS ON STAFFING OF CENTER AND ON POSSIBILITIES OF ATTRACTING STUDENTS FROM PROFESSIONAL STAFF OF GULF TV STATIONS AND FROM MEDIA COURSES AT UNIVERSITY OF QATAR. ALREADY EXISTING TECHNICAL PLANS WERE DISCUSSED AND COPY OF CENTER PLANS WAS GIVEN TO DR. SHAHEEN FOR EVALUATION BY S.I.U. (EDWARDSVILLE) MEDIA CENTER TECHNICAL STAFF.

2. INTERIM TRAINING PLANS DISCUSSED INCLUDED TWELVE WEEK TRAINING CYCLE (TWO SIX WEEK COURSES) FOR RADIO/TELEVISION ANNOUNCERS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN EARLY OCTOBER. MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOME OF SHAHEEN VISIT IS PLAN TO SEND FOUR TO TEN QATARI STUDENTS FOR SPECIAL ONE YEAR COURSE AT S.I.U. COURSE WILL INCLUDE LANGUAGE, TECHNICAL AND PRODUCTION TRAINING AT CARBONDALE AND EDWARDSVILLE CAMPUSES, WITH POSSIBILITY OF FULL UNIVERSITY DEGREE PROGRAM IN MEDIA FOR ONE OR MORE PROMISING MEMBERS OF GROUPS.

3. DURING VISIT DR. SHAHEEN WORKED CLOSELY WITH TV TRAINING CENTER DIRECTOR, RAMADAN KHALIFA, MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION, EL-TAYEB SALEH, AND MEMBERS OF THEIR STAFFS. PRIOR TO DEPARTURE DR. SHAHEEN DISCUSSED PLANS FOR TRAINING WITH MINISTER OF INFORMATION ISA AL-KAWARI AND DURING THIS DISCUSSION PLAN TO SEND STUDENTS TO S.I.U. EVOLVED.

4. DR. SHAHEEN PLANS TO RETURN TO QATAR DURING THANKSGIVING OR CHRISTMAS BREAK TO FURTHER DISCUSS MINISTRY TRAINING PLANS. DR. SHAHEEN ALSO MET WITH STAFF MEMBERS OF THOMPSON GROUP (SCOTLAND) AND OMAN TV WHO EXTENDED INVITATIONS TO VISIT THEIR ESTABLISHMENTS IN THEIR HOME COUNTRIES TO STUDY TRAINING METHODS.

5. COMMENT: IN SPITE OF DIFFICULTIES WITH LOST LUGGAGE, TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS AND SCHEDULING OF APPOINTMENTS, DR. SHAHEEN MAINTAINED POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND LEFT MINISTRY AND TV PERSONNEL WITH GOOD
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IMPRESSION. EMBASSY IS PARTICULARLY SATISFIED WITH PLAN FOR TRAINING QATARI STUDENTS IN U.S. FOR WORK IN MEDIA SINCE IT IS A PROGRAM WE AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION HAVE BEEN TRYING TO SET UP FOR A LONG TIME.

6. DR. SHAHEEN WAS WELL SATISFIED WITH PRE-VISIT BRIEFING IN WASHINGTON RESERVING SPECIAL PRAISE FOR NEA/CU BRIEFER FARSAKH PAGANELLI

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